

RCMP-GRC

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

Illegal Protest Activity: Update for International Partners

Overview

- The RCMP continues to provide around-the-clock assistance to the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) through the enhanced Integrated Command Centre. This collaboration is helping us to bolster resources and the enforcement response. A clear and actionable plan has been developed and is underway to bring about a safe and peaceful end to the unlawful protests continuing in downtown Ottawa.
- Significant police action is underway to address illegal protests in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada.
- Over the past two weeks, blockades at the Ambassador Bridge in Ontario, at Emerson in Manitoba, at Coutts in Alberta and in Quebec City near legislative building were handled peacefully in a few hours or days. At Coutts in Alberta, some individuals were charged and weapons found. For more, see news release: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2022/alberta-rcmp-make-arrests-coutts-border-blockade>
- The situation in Ottawa remains. A major police operation is ongoing. This action is being led by local police of jurisdiction supported by police from across Canada, including the RCMP members vested with additional powers by the *Emergency Act*.
- The *Emergency Act* was invoked on February 14th, and it provided the RCMP authority to support provincial and territorial capacity. The RCMP can now enforce municipal bylaws, provincial offences, and impose fines or imprisonment in targeted geographical locations. More about *Emergency Act* below.
- A large secured area has been established in Ottawa, encompassing much of the downtown core. Government offices are largely closed and highway access and some mass transit in the core has been reduced. Access is limited to individuals with a legitimate reason to be there and controlled by police checkpoints.
- These measures are expected to remain in place for days. Ongoing police operations is sequenced and focused on addressing protesters and will continue by removing heavy trucks blocking main city streets.
- Banks have started to freeze personal and corporate accounts linked to the demonstrations. RCMP and other police continue to work with Canadian financial institutions to implement measures provided for under the *Emergencies Act*.
- A number of main organizers and individuals of concern were arrested starting Thursday evening, with many additional arrests ongoing. So far, protesters are not resisting significantly when apprehended. There continues to be a presence of children amongst protesters.
- The RCMP, through the Canadian Police Information Center, has encouraged all Canadian police agencies to log individuals arrested and released, charged and released, or suspected to be involved

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with illegal activities on CPIC as a means of facilitate information sharing. This should facilitate future queries from international partners.

- The Canada Police Information Center allows US agencies access to CPIC data in accordance with a Memorandum of Cooperation and Federal Privacy Laws. Other international partners can make requests for information via established channels such as Liaison Officers, EUROPOL and INTERPOL channels; these will be assessed and addressed promptly.
- The RCMP continues to develop intelligence on those suspected to be involved with illegal activities, with an overarching focus on identifying risks to public safety both in Canada and abroad. The RCMP's Joint Intelligence Group on Illegal Protest Activities is not aware of any specific threat intelligence suggesting imminent risk of public safety at present [as of 14:00 2022-02-18]. See attached products from the JIG.
- Numerous protest events are planned across Canada for this coming weekend [2022-02-19 and 2022-02-20]. Planning is underway vis-à-vis each of these.
- We continue to track convoy-style protests around the world likely inspired by events in Ottawa.
- Please send any requests for information to **Irrelevant**
- RCMP has also started a webpage dedicated to information on unfolding events: www.blockade.rcmp.ca. The website of the Ottawa Police service leading the operation is www.ottawapolice.ca.

Emergency Act and Finance Measures

- The *Emergencies Act* allows law enforcement and monitoring agencies to work more closely with Canadian financial institutions; enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement conducting investigations into blockades.
- It allows financial institutions to freeze financial products of individuals and companies suspected of involvement in the illegal acts mentioned in the law, and for law enforcement to share information with financial institutions for that purpose.
- Through the Act's powers, the RCMP is broadening the scope of Canada's anti-money laundering / anti-terrorist financing rules to now include crowdfunding platforms and the payment service providers, including digital assets. All crowd funding platforms and the payment service providers they use now must register with FINTRAC, and report large and suspicious transactions to FINTRAC.
- With regards to the enacting and application of the Economic Emergency Measure Order, the RCMP is diligently working with municipal and provincial partners, such as the Ottawa Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police, to collect relevant information on persons, vehicle and companies. To that effect, the RCMP and its partners have developed an internal process to corroborate and validate collected information prior to sharing it with financial institutions.
- The RCMP is in constant communication with the financial institutions to help them make the proper determination, as per the powers of the EEMO, before they take action to freeze financial products within holding. Thus far the RCMP has shared several information packages of persons, vehicles and companies involved directly or indirectly in an activity prohibited under the Order.
- Presently, the RCMP is aware that several accounts and other financial products have been subject to a freeze.

- It remains the responsibility of the banks to make the decision of freezing the accounts, not an order from the law enforcement.
- While we are using the measures in place, we will not be sharing the numbers of accounts frozen as operational actions are being taken, and we want to be very careful not to jeopardize any of those ongoing actions.
- These measures are significant and temporary. Parliament will vote on them in the coming days.

Crowdfunding

- The RCMP has a legislated role in tracking suspected terrorist financing and money laundering transactions through online platforms.
- The RCMP, along with other law enforcement partners, is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for investigating terrorist financing offences and collecting evidence to facilitate the prosecution of individuals and organizations involved in these activities.
- The RCMP takes the issue of terrorism financing very seriously, and works collaboratively with its international and domestic law enforcement partners to disrupt the international transfer of funds and resources to listed terrorist organizations.

Approved by:

Liam Price

Bronze – International

RCMP National Response to Illegal Protests

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